

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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In the Matter of)	
Equal Access and Interconnection)	
Obligations Pertaining to)	CC Docket 94-54
Commercial Mobile Radio Services)	RM-8012

Reply Comments of General Communication, Inc.

General Communication, Inc. (GCI) hereby submits reply comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry in the above captioned proceeding. As clarified below, the Commission should implement equal access obligations for all Commercial Mobile Radio Service providers (CMRS), including cellular providers. Moreover, the Commission should not distinguish between rural and non-rural providers. Also, the requirements for LEC interconnection with CMRS providers should be strengthened so that LECs are required to file tariffs for interconnection. Lastly, the Commission should confirm CMRS providers are common carriers and required to interconnect with other common carriers upon request.

I. Equal Access Obligations of CMRS Providers

All CMRS providers, including cellular and PCS providers, should be required to implement equal access. This obligation should be extended to all areas of the country, including rural areas. Parties supporting exemption of rural carriers have simply not made a case to distinguish between rural and non-rural areas. Equal access

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for wireline carriers is an obligation of all carriers and provides the benefits of competition to all areas of the country and all consumers, no matter there location. Exempting rural carriers would be detrimental to the customer and to the competitive environment. If a carrier cannot immediately provide equal access due to technological issues, the Commission may grant a temporary waiver for that carrier upon a proper showing. If the Commission want to ease the obligations for certain rural carriers, it should simply require that equal access be implemented upon a bona fide request. This system worked well for wireline LECs in rural areas.

Parties suggest several different local service areas as the equal access boundary. These range from LATAs to MTAs. GCI notes that Alaska is not a LATA since it was not part of the MFJ and that Alaska is one MTA. GCI suggests that interexchange carriers in Alaska be allowed to interconnect with each partitioned cellular provider at reasonably any requested location. Since, the interexchange carriers will pay for implementation of equal access, they should be allowed to pick the point of interconnection.

1+ equal access must be implemented. Customers must be allowed to choose their interexchange carrier from all wireless phones as they do for wireline phones today.

Interexchange carriers must be able to obtain relevant billing and collection information that is in the exclusive

possession of the CMRS provider. This information should be offered on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions.

II. LEC to CMRS Interconnection Obligations

GCI strongly disagrees that the current system of negotiated interconnection between LECs and cellular providers should continue. The number of CMRS providers in a given area is expanding dramatically. Currently, two cellular providers operate in a given MSA/RSA. The Commission is about to auction PCS spectrum creating many more competitors. To ensure that interconnection rates, terms and conditions are not discriminatory, it is vital that the Commission require LECs to file interconnection tariffs. Otherwise, CMRS providers could be delayed by standing in line to negotiate with LECs for interconnection. Further, LECs should be required to provide any appropriate form of interconnection upon request of the CMRS provider. Also, the Commission must mandate mutual compensation between the LEC and CMRS providers to create seamless ubiquitous networks.

III. CMRS Providers Are Common Carriers


CMRS providers are common carriers, and are therefore required to interconnect with any common carrier requesting such interconnection. The Commission should take a wait and see approach on the number and types of such requests before determining if CMRS providers should be required to file

interconnection tariffs.

Conclusion

The Commission should implement equal access obligations for all CMRS providers, including cellular providers. However, the Commission should not distinguish between rural and non-rural providers. Also, LECs should be required to file tariffs for interconnection with CMRS providers. Lastly, CMRS providers should be required to interconnect with other CMRS providers upon request.

Respectfully submitted,
General Communication, Inc.



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October 12, 1994

Statement of Verification

I have read the foregoing, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief there is good ground to support it, and that it is not interposed for delay. I verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 12th day of October.



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Certificate of Service

I, Kathy L. Shobert, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Reply Comments of GCI were sent via first class mail, postage prepaid to the following on this 12th day of October.


Kathy L. Shobert

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